

Response Under 37 CFR §1.116

IN THE CLAIMS (CLEAN COPY)

A marked-up copy follows this clean copy as required under 37 CFR 1.121.
Please amend claims 19-31 as follows:

57 *cl* 19. A method for purchasing products using a purchasing agent, the method comprising:

utilizing a user dialog to register at one or more auction sites to obtain a user identification and/or password;

utilizing a user dialog to enter a product purchase request;

communicating with a first and/or next auction site;

determining if said product purchase request is available, and if not, proceeding to the communicating step;

determining if a current bid from said auction site is below a limit maximum permitted, and if not, proceeding to the communicating step;

placing a bid for said product purchase request with said auction site;

determining if said bid has been accepted and if so, canceling outstanding bids at other auction sites;

otherwise, determining if bidding has been terminated and if so, proceeding to the communicating step;

determining if time is running out on any current outstanding bids and if so, canceling all high-cost outstanding bids and returning to the third determining step; and

otherwise, returning to the communicating step to inquire if there are additional auction sites in which it might be advantageous to place a bid on said product purchase request.

D1 20. The method of Claim 19 wherein one or more of said method steps is implemented using a personal computer.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said product purchase requests are generated by a manufacturing resource and/or inventory planning system to supply parts and/or materials and/or supplies for a commercial enterprise.

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D) 22. The method of Claim 19 wherein said product purchase requests are generated by a manufacturing resource and/or inventory planning system to supply parts and/or materials and/or supplies for a commercial enterprise.

23. The method of Claim 19 wherein said auction site is an Internet-based web auction site.

24. The method of Claim 19 wherein said placing step prioritizes bid placement to permit only lowest cost auction sites to be utilized in the bidding process.

C) 25. A system for purchasing products using a purchasing agent, comprising:
means for utilizing a user dialog to register at one or more auction sites to obtain a user identification and/or password;
means for utilizing a user dialog to enter a product purchase request;
means for communicating with a first and/or next auction site;
means for determining if said product purchase request is available, and if not, proceeding to the means for communicating;
means for determining if a current bid from said auction site is below a limit maximum permitted, and if not, proceeding to the means for communicating;
means for placing a bid for said product purchase request with said auction site;
means for determining if said bid has been accepted and if so, canceling outstanding bids at other auction sites;
means for otherwise determining if bidding has been terminated, and if so, proceeding to the means for communicating;
means for determining if time is running out on any current outstanding bids and if so, canceling all high-cost outstanding bids and returning to the third means for determining; and
means for otherwise returning to the means for communicating to inquire if there are additional auction sites in which it might be advantageous to place a bid on said product purchase request.

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26. The system of Claim 25 wherein one or more of said means is implemented utilizing a personal computer.

27. The system of Claim 26 wherein said product purchase requests are generated by a manufacturing resource and/or inventory planning system to supply parts and/or materials and/or supplies for a commercial enterprise.

28. system of Claim 25 wherein said product purchase requests are generated by a manufacturing resource and/or inventory planning system to supply parts and/or materials and/or supplies for a commercial enterprise.

29. The system of Claim 25 wherein said auction site is an Internet-based web auction site.

30. The system of Claim 25 wherein said means for placing prioritizes bid placement to permit only lowest cost auction sites to be utilized in the bidding process.

31. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for purchasing products using a purchasing agent, the computer instructions including Instructions for:

utilizing a user dialog to register at one or more auction sites to obtain a user identification and/or password;

utilizing a user dialog to enter a product purchase request;

communicating with a first and/or next auction site;

determining if said product purchase request is available, and if not, proceeding to the communicating step;

determining if a current bid from said auction site is below a limit maximum permitted, and if not, proceeding to the communicating step;

placing a bid for said product purchase request with said auction site;

determining if said bid has been accepted and if so, canceling outstanding bids at other auction sites;

otherwise determining if bidding has been terminated and if so, proceeding to the

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~~determining if time is running out on any current outstanding bids and if so, canceling all high-cost outstanding bids and returning to the third determining step; and otherwise returning to the communicating step to inquire if there are additional auction sites in which it might be advantageous to place a bid on said product purchase request.~~

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